



Indiana State Department of Health

Long Term Care Newsletter

ISDH LTC Newsletter

Issue # 08-01

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Introduction to the ISDH LTC Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the online Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Long Term Care Newsletter. This is a new initiative of the ISDH and we thank you for subscribing. We hope that you will find the newsletters to be informative and beneficial. Our goal is to send a newsletter at least every other week. My plan right now is to send newsletters on Fridays. Newsletters will be delivered directly to your email mailbox via this automated system. There is no charge to subscribers to receive this newsletter. It is available to everyone who wishes to subscribe. Individuals may subscribe at:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/ltc/ltcnewsletter/index.htm>

In the past the ISDH prepared a newsletter about every six months. The newsletters and attachments were copied and mailed to health care facilities. This new delivery system replaces the previous paper newsletters that were mailed to facilities.

For the past couple of years, the ISDH has been searching for an improved means of

communicating with long term care providers. Working on emergency preparedness issues emphasized the need to communicate immediately with health care providers. Communication systems such as blast faxes often were discarded, only reached one individual, or were not widely disseminated to all staff. The ISDH determined that this automated email system fit many of our needs.

The ISDH is excited about this system and the potential benefits that it offers. We have several goals for the newsletter:

- **Immediacy.** There are times that the ISDH needs to provide facilities with immediate information. Recalls, boil water advisories, and emergency information are examples of information.
- **Timely.** We want to be able to provide facilities with current information. For instance, when new regulations or guidelines are issued, the ISDH will have a means of providing that information to you in a timely manner.
- **Manageable.** By having a newsletter every other week, our hope is to have shorter and concise newsletters that only take a few minutes of your time to review.
- **Widespread distribution.** The ISDH has had difficulty in disseminating information that reaches the individuals that need to know. For instance, information about conferences was mailed, faxed, and included in organization newsletters but still did not reach all of the intended individuals. The ISDH hopes that this system will improve our ability to disseminate information.
- **Interactive.** The ISDH wants to be responsive to issues. This system will allow the ISDH to communicate information. With your feedback and input the ISDH can then clarify information as needed to ensure that there is a consistent understanding of issues.

The ISDH plans to include several types of information in the newsletters such as:

- Program news and updates
- Changes in regulations or guidelines
- Health care data relevant to long term care facilities
- Coming events
- Healthcare quality initiatives and best practices
- Licensing, certification, and registration information
- Recalls
- Emergency information
- Case studies
- Questions and answers

Important recall information on New ERA canned Gordon Food Service Blue Lake Cut Green Beans in 6 lbs. 5 oz cans

One of the primary values of this electronic newsletter is our ability to provide important public

health information in a timely manner. Recalls that affect long term care facilities is an example of important information. Today the ISDH is providing you with important information on a recall of a product that has been found in Indiana long term care facilities.

The ISDH Food Protection Program has been working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the recall of New ERA canned Gordon Food Service Blue Lake Cut Green Beans in 6 lbs. 5 oz cans because of botulinum contamination. The distribution of this product has included several healthcare facilities and hospitals. In discussion with FDA, the inspection is still ongoing and the recall may be expanded to include other sizes or products.

At the present time, the local health departments have completed recall effectiveness checks at the healthcare facilities in their county that were on the vendor list, however should the recall expand, you should receive additional notification from your supplier.

- The recalled product has a lot code of **19H7FL** and will also contain a plant code of **00249** embossed on the ends of the cans.
- FDA has requested that we look for other New Era Canning Company products containing the **plant code of 00249**. Other products in question consist of pumpkin, asparagus, other types of green beans, dark or black beans, etc. These products may be found in various can sizes or under different brand names. Please be observant for can defects such as swells, leaks, springers and buckled can seams. If any of these defective products are found they should be segregated and quarantined.

If you have any of the recalled product or if you any questions, please contact Dan Gala, ISDH Food Protection Program, 317-233-7366.

Update on Delivery of Pressure Redistribution Devices

On October 30, 2007 the ISDH announced the purchase of one Hill-Rom Synergy Air Elite mattress and four EHOB 200 WCI wheelchair cushions for each comprehensive care facility. These products are being provided to facilities by the ISDH at no cost to the facilities. The mattresses are being shipped directly to each facility by Hill-Rom. Hill-Rom began shipment of the mattresses on December 13, 2007. Facilities generally receive the delivery 2-3 days after shipment although deliveries have been a little slower during the holiday rush. Hill-Rom expects shipments to be completed around the middle of January.

EHOB will begin shipping the wheelchair cushions in the next week. EHOB will ship the cushions directly to each facility. EHOB expects to complete delivery by the end of January. For information about the EHOB products and deliveries, please contact Kurt Veters, EHOB, at (317) 847-6341.

From December 14 through December 21, the ISDH conducted eleven training sessions across nine Indiana cities on the two pressure redistribution devices being provided to facilities. 384

facilities attended the training sessions provided by Hill-Rom and EHOB representatives. The ISDH is not planning additional in-person training sessions at this time. Hill-Rom and EHOB will be sending training materials to those facilities that missed the in-person sessions. Those materials include a training DVD for each of the products. You may contact Hill-Rom and EHOB representatives for additional training information.

The ISDH will update you on the status of the distributions in coming newsletters.

Coming Events

3rd ISDH LONG TERM CARE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: The 3rd ISDH Long Term Care Leadership Conference is scheduled for March 18, 2008. The conference will be from 8:30 – 4:00 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. The conference will focus on behavior management and restraints. Watch for further information as it becomes available.

On behalf of all of us at the Indiana State Department of Health, I wish you a healthy and happy new year!

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health